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NOTES AND NEWS

CHILDBIRTH AMONG THE BLACKFEET.—When the time approaches for a woman to be confined a lodge is pitched for her a little way from the camp. No man enters this lodge, unless it be the husband, and he remains only for a short time.

When the time for confinement is close at hand the different medicine women (doctors or midwives) come, each one bringing with her her medicine. When the labor pains come on the sick woman selects the woman who is to treat her. What she is to pay is already tied up in a bundle and is put out at the time when she chooses her doctor. She is doctored only to the extent of this fee.

The sick woman may call for only one doctor at first, but if any trouble occurs she may call for a second or a third to assist, the others present taking no part unless they are asked to help, although they are always present until the child is born and taken care of.

When the child is born it is taken by the doctor and certain ceremonies follow. The child is washed in cold water. The umbilicus is cut, but not with a knife; an arrowhead must be used. Then the midwife lays the child upon the ground and she and her assistants—if she have any—get out their red paint and offer up prayers, asking for health and good luck for the infant. If it is a girl, they pray that she may be virtuous and be like the good mothers in the camp; that she may be guided aright in all her ways through life and may long survive. For a boy they pray that he may have long life; that he may be a brave man, may have a kind heart, and may be a worthy person among his people.

After these prayers are ended they paint the child red over its whole person. The afterbirth is then gathered up, and a prayer made that the woman may survive this sickness and may be a good mother to the child. Then the old woman carries away and disposes of the afterbirth as she pleases; sometimes burying it, or throwing it in the river, or hanging it in a tree.

The next morning the midwife is asked in again and the child is again washed in cold water, the paint being all washed off.

The same prayer first made is repeated, and the child is painted again. For this a small fee is given.

That evening the child is again washed clean. Sometimes the infant is painted only once or twice, sometimes every day for ten days or two weeks, the prayers being offered at each painting.

The mother of the sick woman, even though she may be a doctor, performs no part at the birth of her grandchild.

GEORGE BIRD GRINNELL.

THE TORAJAS of the Celebes clothe themselves principally with bark cloth, in the preparation of which they are great adepts. The finer cloths are as thin as paper, and are frequently dyed red and adorned with grotesque figures. Sometimes the Toraja wears only a loin-cloth. To this may be added a *sarong* of bark thrown over the shoulders; jackets of the same material are also seen now and then. When traveling across the country the Toraja wears a long apron of skin hanging down behind, so that he can sit comfortably on the damp ground. A certain fancifulness is exhibited in the head-covering. Sometimes it consists of a simple piece of bark cloth, occasionally dyed red or more seldom of many colors, and arranged so as to form two horns. The half of a gourd-shell and caps of rattan are also used, and these, again, are covered with skins and ornamented with civet cat's tails, plumes of heron feathers, tines of deer, etc. Bangles of shell, horn, iron, and bronze, necklaces of glass beads, or threads adorned with the bill of the Celebes cuckoo (*Phænicophæa calorhynchus*), the cuirass of the rhinoceros beetle, and other things are worn as ornaments. The Toraja never goes unarmed; he always carries a spear with a well-wrought iron point, and is seldom without a shield of rattan colored in patterns or of wood ornamented with inlaid bone or shell and red and white goat's hair. His principal weapon, however, is his *klewang*, often an heirloom; its handle and sheath are carved, and the latter is further adorned with hair and feathers or the head of a rhinoceros bird.—*Sarasin in Scottish Geog. Mag., July, 1896.*

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.—Mr Marshall Field, the principal patron of the Field Columbian Museum at Chicago, has offered

an endowment fund of \$2,000,000 to that institution on condition that "twenty acres shall be set aside on the Lake Front park, which is close to the business center, and dedicated to the institution, and that the directors shall be authorized to make the transfer from the building at Jackson park so soon as the lake basin beyond the Illinois Central tracks shall be filled." It is sincerely hoped that Mr Field's stipulation may be agreed to by the city authorities, and that the museum, whose excellent work has been somewhat hampered from lack of funds, may carry out its plans for amassing a great scientific collection.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, in the city of New York, has just issued an announcement of its course in anthropology during 1896-'97. Besides addresses on related subjects, this course includes lectures on ethnology and geography by Dr Ripley; general introductory course in anthropology by Dr Farrand; primitive culture by Dr Farrand; physical anthropology by Dr Boas, and North American languages, also by Dr Boas. In the last mentioned course an introduction to the study of the languages of North America will be given, and the methods of recording and of analyzing unwritten languages will receive particular attention. The collections in the American Museum of Natural History are available for the students of the university.

DR J. WALTER FEWKES, who has succeeded in unearthing a splendid collection of prehistoric Hopi pottery, sacred paraphernalia, bone, shell, and turquoise-incrusted ornaments, stone implements, etc, in central Arizona, has shipped the objects to the National Museum and is en route to Oraibi, where he will make supplementary studies of the snake dance which takes place at that pueblo this summer.

SUPERSTITIONS CONCERNING KEYS.—Among Bengal Hindus mourners wear iron or iron keys. In Russia a key is held in the hand to stop bleeding, and in Scotland and Staffordshire a key laid on the neck or put down the back stops bleeding at the nose. In Scotland, in the seventeenth century, secrets were brought to light by turning a key. In 1701, in Scotland, Mar-

garet Sanders was accused of laying a key under a sick man's pillow to cure him. The Roman and the Norseman bride was presented with keys at the wedding. In A. D. 600 Gregory the Great sent to Childebert, king of the Franks, a golden key to be worn around the king's neck to guard him from evil. Its guardian power was the probable root-reason why the key was chosen to adorn the gods Mithrâs and Janus, the goddesses Cybele and Ceres, the Jewish high priest, and the Christian pope. Its power of shutting and opening continues the key as a symbol of authority after the belief in its guardian virtue has passed. The same double power makes the key an emblem of learning and eloquence in Asiatic literature, and of silence among Freemasons.—*Indian Antiquary*.

SUICIDE IN EUROPEAN CITIES.—Recent vital statistics show the following numbers of cases of suicide per 10,000 of population: Munich, 1.93; Berlin, 2.98; Vienna, 3.2; Brussels, 3.29; Paris, 3.6; Breslau, 3.91. The Vienna correspondent of *The Lancet* furnishes some interesting data concerning suicides in that city. In every 100 cases 77 were men and 23 women. Adolescents appear to have even more frequent recourse to this method of terminating their real or supposed miseries, the highest rate being registered at the age of sixteen to twenty-five years. Among 100 suicides, 32.5 ended their days by hanging, 28.5 by pistol shots, 22.4 by poisoning, and 5.8 by drowning. With respect to the poisons, cyanide of potassium was resorted to in 12.7 of the cases, caustic lye in 22.7, phosphorus in 26.1, and sulphuric acid in 7.2. As for seasonable distribution the proportions were: In January, 8.5 per cent; in February, 7.6 per cent; in March, 8.9 per cent; in April, 9.1 per cent; in May, 10.5 per cent; in June, 8.7 per cent; in July, 8.1 per cent; in August, 7.2 per cent; in September, 7.4 per cent; in October, 8.3 per cent; in November, 7.8 per cent, and in December, 7.9 per cent.—*N. Y. Medical Record*.

THE Museum of Archeology and Paleontology of the University of Pennsylvania is to have a new building 260 x 350 feet, to be erected at a cost of about \$350,000, \$150,000 of which has been appropriated by the state of Pennsylvania.